

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153278  
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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153278

FOLLOWING REPEAT DURBAN 435 ACTION SECSATE INFO PRETORIA  
DATED JUN 30:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 0435

FROM AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV SF

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST ARTICLES  
ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 151195

1. WHILE THERE ARE GROWING SIGNS OF FERMENT WITHIN RANKS OF  
AFRIKANERDOM OVER QUESTION OF CHANGE, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS  
THAT IT HAS REACHED A LEVEL TO JUSTIFY OTTAWAY'S ASSERTIONS  
THAT THE BATTLE LINES BETWEEN VERLIGTE AND VERKRAMPTE FACTIONS  
ARE BEING DRAWN AND THAT A SPLIT IN THE NATIONAL PARTY IS  
IMMINENT.

2. REPORTERS FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING PRESS (FLEUR DE VILLIERS,  
S. P. SERFONTEIN AND OTHERS) OVER PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN  
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WRITING HIGHLY SPECULATIVE PIECES ABOUT JOCKEYING FOR POSITION  
IN THE SUCCESSION SWEEPSTAKES (THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS VORSTER  
PLANS TO STEP DOWN) AND LIKELY CHANGES WHICH THE CABINET COMMITTEE  
ON MODIFICATION OF THE WESTMINSTER SYSTEM IS LIKELY TO PROPOSE.

3. WHAT ACTUAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION HAVE SURFACED CENTER ALMOST  
EXCLUSIVELY AROUND THE KOORNHOF SPEECH AND REACTION THERETO

(CAPE TOWN 863 AND 995). HERMETIC QUALITY OF CABINET,  
NATIONAL PARTY CAUCUS AND BROEDERBOND DISCUSSIONS OTHERWISE  
CONTINUES.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT THE DISCUSSIONS TOUCHED  
OFF BY THE KOORNHOF SPEECH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN  
THE CONFINES OF THE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND NO MAJOR  
POLITICAL FIGURE -- INCLUDING KOORNHOF -- IS ADVOCATING POWER  
SHARING IN THE SENSE OF ALLOWING COLOREDS AND INDIANS, LET ALONE  
BLACKS, TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMON PARLIAMENT. I DO NOT READ  
VILJOEN'S COMMENTS TO JOHN BURNS AS ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS  
CONCLUSION.

5. DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT IN ITS JUDGMENT THAT OTTAWAY HAS  
OVERDRAWN THE DIVISION BETWEEN VERLIGTE AND VERKRAMPTE LINES.  
WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE IS ANY SERIOUS EFFORT UNDERWAY  
BY THE NATIONALIST LEADERSHIP TO INTRODUCE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE  
IN THE SYSTEM. ON THE CONTRARY, PIK BOTHA'S RHETORIC OVER THE  
PAST FEW WEEKS HAS, IF ANYTHING, AROUSED AFRIKANER FEARS ABOUT  
MAKING CONCESSIONS AND THEREBY STIRRED UP LAAGER INSTINCTS.  
OTTAWAY'S ARTICLE OF JUNE 29 (STATE 151593) REPEATS ANOTHER  
FACET OF SAG LINE DESIGNED TO WIN SYMPATHY AMONG LIBERALS OVER-  
SEAS IN OVERALL EFFORT TO FORCE CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD  
SOUTH AFRICA.

6. IF, AS IS GENERALLY EXPECTED, THE NP LEADERSHIP BEGINS TO  
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CHECK OUT MODIFICATIONS IN THE WESTMINSTER SYSTEM WITH THE  
RANK AND FILE AT THE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER PROVINCIAL PARTY  
CONGRESSESSES, WE WILL GET A BETTER INDICATION OF WHAT CHANGES  
VORSTER HAS IN MIND AND WHAT DIVISIONS THEY ARE LIKELY TO  
PROVOKE. IN THE MEANTIME, WE SHOULD MAINTAIN A PRUDENT  
RESERVE ABOUT HOW PROFOUND THOSE CHANGES WILL BE AND HOW  
MUCH REAL DISSENSION IN AFRIKANER RANKS IS LIKELY TO SURFACE  
GIVEN THE ATTITUDE THAT "SURVIVAL" REQUIRES UNITY. V FARBER UNQTE  
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## Message Attributes

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